



DUBOIS TELEPHONE EXCHANGE INC.

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March 6, 2014

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Expression of Interest – Rural Broadband Experiments
Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

By this letter, Dubois Telephone Exchange, Inc. (DTE) is expressing interest in the FCC rural broadband experiments. DTE serves as an incumbent local exchange carrier in Wyoming with network facilities extending into northern Colorado. DTE has been providing communications services throughout its exchange areas since 1930.

Although its service territory is sparsely populated, DTE has been able to provide advanced broadband communications services in rural communities, equivalent to those available in more densely populated areas. DTE is actively expanding its optical fiber network to provide higher broadband speeds and advanced services to remote areas outside of the small towns it serves. As an integral part of the communities it serves, DTE understands the positive impact that broadband communications has on economic development, health care services, higher education and quality of life in general. DTE also understands the challenges in providing broadband communications services in remote and sparsely populated areas.

Proposed Service Area

DTE proposes to extend high speed broadband from its existing middle-mile fiber network to unserved and underserved locations in the western part of the Wind River Indian Reservation. Home to rural Indian and non-Indian residences, small farms and ranches, the area is a mosaic of Tribal Trust, Allotted and Deeded (non-Indian) lands; and is also adjacent to DTE's eastern exchange boundary, but on the extreme edge of another incumbent provider's service area. Consequently, existing service in this area is somewhat antiquated and low on the priority list for upgrades. Residents have approached DTE in the past about bringing broadband to the area, particularly when the middle mile fiber route passed their homes.

Based upon area coverage survey data, the proposed area includes 57 occupied housing units.

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Proposed Service Offerings / Rates

DTE offers a wide selection of broadband communications services including Soft Switch and IP voice services, high speed Internet and access to video streaming services. These are commonly available in various combinations with broadband speed offerings in multiple tiers ranging from a minimum of 3Mbps to 20 Mbps. 50 Mbps to 100 Mbps capability is also available (where supported). All services available through DTE would be offered throughout broadband experiment area.

Following is a list of the DTE broadband options and pricing:

Residential	
3.0 Mbps download/512 kbps upload	\$40.00/mo
6.0 Mbps download/512 kbps upload	\$50.00/mo
10.0 Mbps download/1.0 Mbps upload	\$60.00/mo
20.0 Mbps download/1.0 Mbps upload	\$80.00/mo

Business	
3.0 Mbps download/512 kbps upload	\$40.00/mo
6.0 Mbps download/512 kbps upload	\$50.00/mo
10.0 Mbps download/1.0 Mbps upload	\$60.00/mo
15.0 Mbps download/3.0 Mbps upload	\$75.00/mo
20.0 Mbps download/5.0 Mbps upload	\$130.00/mo
20.0 Mbps download/10.0 Mbps upload	\$140.00/mo

Proposed Technologies

DTE proposes to utilize Fiber to the Premise to serve those locations adjacent to its existing middle-mile transport facilities using Calix Broadband Loop Carrier (BLC) to deliver Passive Optical Network (PON) and Active Ethernet services. Existing licensed 700MHz, registered 3.65GHz and/or non-licensed 900MHz wireless spectrum would be used to deploy LTE and WiMAX broadband fixed wireless services to serve isolated subscribers beyond the economical reach of optical fiber facilities.

Project Timeline and Cost

The project timeline is directly related to FCC funding availability and the permitting process for simple Bureau of Indian Affairs Service Line Agreements that affect Tribal members only. It would be DTE's goal to begin installation and construction activities as soon as possible.

A high-level estimate of funds required to build out the network would be \$307,800 and DTE would plan to contribute \$76,950. It would be our preference to utilize one-time funding from the FCC for the balance of \$230,850 rather than continuing funding.

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DTE has a successful history of serving Tribal and non-Tribal members, and the capacity, experience, and capabilities to provide a ubiquitous high speed broadband network encompassing neighboring residents in the proposed service area within the Wind River Indian Reservation.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Kenney
General Manager

Project Area Census Tracts/Blocks

• **Fremont County, WY - Census Tract 9401 – Census Blocks Covered:**

- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1302
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1304
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1305
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1310
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1380
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1385
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1535
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1549
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1586
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1587
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1589
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1597
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1600
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1601
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1609
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1612
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1617
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1625
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1629
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1630
- Census Block;56;013;9401.00;1883